

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2009

1700

The Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express both our hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings focused on the deployment and use of broadband networks.

We applaud the Commission's effort to gather information about broadband and its recognition of the significant progress achieved to date, progress that is a direct result of policies that have encouraged competition and private investment and relied on the exercise of regulatory restraint. A decade ago, broadband was a nascent service, and only one percent of U.S. households connected to the Internet through broadband lines; today by contrast, roughly two-thirds of Americans connect through high-speed connections that are available to ninety-five percent of households. While we have further to go as a nation in extending the benefits of broadband to all, it is our strong belief that continued progress in expanding the reach and capabilities of broadband networks will require the Commission to reiterate, and not repudiate, its historic commitment to competition, private investment and a restrained regulatory approach.

As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts will reveal the critical role that competition and private investment have played -- and of necessity will continue to play -- in building robust broadband networks that are safe, secure and open. In light of the growth and innovation in new applications that the current regime has enabled, as compared to the limited evidence demonstrating any tangible harm, we would urge you to avoid tentative conclusions which favor government regulation.

Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation and growth that we all seek to achieve.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

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Bill Foster
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Daniel B. Maffei
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Elijah L. Cummings Member of Congress

Paul Stonlo Paul Tonko Member of Congress Ed Perlmutter Member of Congress Zachary T. Space Member of Congress Robert A. Brady Member of Congress Debbie L. Halvorson Member of Congress Member of Congress Jared Polis Member of Congress Stove Driehaus Member of Congress

Kathleen A. Dahlkemper

Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge Costa iober of Congress Member of Congress Leonard L. Boswell Mike Ross Member of Congress Member of Congress John/Spratt, Jr. Sheila Jackson-Leé Member of Congress Member of Congress Peter Welch Charlie Melancon Member of Congress Member of Congress 1. Muhave Michael Michaud Al Green Member of Congress Member of Congress Ed Pastor Kurt Schrader Member of Congress Member of Congress Danny K. Davis Michael Arcuri Member of Congress Member of Congress Glenn Nye Heath Shuler Member of Congress Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

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Nick Rahall Member of Congress Christopher P. Carnel Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Robert M. McDowell Commissioner Meredith Attwell



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Mike Arcuri U.S. House of Representatives 127 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Arcuri:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

The Commission released its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* on preserving the open Internet on October 22, 2009. The *NPRM* launched a multi-month process, with the goals of safeguarding the free and open Internet, providing greater predictability for the marketplace, and fostering continued innovation and investment. The task of securing an open Internet deserves an open process. Accordingly, Commission staff are conducting a fact-based, transparent, and participatory process to develop rules based on a record that includes engineering and economic examinations.

The Commission has convened a group of technical advisory experts for ongoing input, and held a workshop in December on broadband network management. Over the last three months, the Commission also has held staff-level workshops on investment and innovation, on consumers and transparency, and on free speech and civic participation. Our process now is well underway, and we are encouraged by signs of growing common ground among the many stakeholders we have heard from.

I look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with you on these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Wilson U.S. House of Representatives 226 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wilson:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Peter Welch U.S. House of Representatives 1404 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Edolphus Towns U.S. House of Representatives 2232 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Paul Tonko U.S. House of Representatives 128 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson U.S. House of Representatives 2432 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable John Tanner
U.S. House of Representatives
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tanner:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable John M. Spratt U.S. House of Representatives 1401 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Spratt:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Zack Space U.S. House of Representatives 315 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Space:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

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The Honorable Heath Shuler U.S. House of Representatives 422 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuler:

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The Honorable David Scott U.S. House of Representatives 225 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz U.S. House of Representatives 330 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schwartz:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Kurt Schrader U.S. House of Representatives 1419 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

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Mius Genachowski



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez U.S. House of Representatives 1114 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sanchez:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Mike Ross U.S. House of Representatives 2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ross:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes U.S. House of Representatives 2433 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reyes:

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The Honorable Nick J. Rahall U.S. House of Representatives 2307 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rahall:

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Sincerely,



March 3, 2010

The Honorable Jared Polis U.S. House of Representatives 501 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letters expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter U.S. House of Representatives 415 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Ed Pastor U.S. House of Representatives 2465 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pastor:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz U.S. House of Representatives 2110 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ortiz:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Glenn Nye U.S. House of Representatives 116 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nye:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Moore U.S. House of Representatives 1727 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moore:

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing rulemaking to preserve the open Internet. Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts about the Commission's launch of a participatory public process to develop commonsense rules of the road to preserve an open Internet. We share a common purpose in ensuring that the Internet remains an enduring engine for innovation, investment, economic growth, and the free flow of information. To this important end, you have my pledge to continue working with you and your staff in an ongoing, constructive dialogue with respect to this crucial infrastructure.

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Walt Minnick U.S. House of Representatives 1517 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Minnick:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Michael Michaed U.S. House of Representatives 1724 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Melancon U.S. House of Representatives 404 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melancon:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks U.S. House of Representatives 2342 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Michael E. McMahon U.S. House of Representatives 323 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMahon:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Dan Maffei U.S. House of Representatives 1630 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maffei:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Rick Larsen U.S. House of Representatives 108 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Larsen:

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March 3, 2010

The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 314 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kratovil:

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